Arrests in capital for spying activities

291. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has arrested some persons in the Capital during January, 1989 in connection with their alleged involvement in spying activities;

(b) if, so, the details of the persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government against the persons involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nirmal Puri was arrested on 6th January, 1989 under sections 3 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. Shri Vinod Kumar Khanna, Chairman M/s. Concord International Pvt. Ltd. was also arrested on 25-10-88 in this case.

(c) On completion of the investigation under the provisions of Official Secrets Act, 1923, a complaint has been filed by the CBI in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Delhi on 8-2-89 for the prosecution of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nirmal Puri and Vinod Kumar Khanna under Section 120-B IPC read with sections 3 and 5 of Official Secrets Act, 1923. The Court has taken cognizance of this case and the same is pending trial.

Central Directions on Pollution Control to States

292. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have directed the State Governments to set up working groups to review the status of pollution control in different industries;

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by the State Governments in the matter;

(c) whether Government also propose to set up prototype unit for recycling of wastes for manufacture of useful products; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India have requested the State Governments to form State Level Coordination Committees for the management of hazardous substances. So far 14 States/Union Territories (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi) have formed such Committees.

(c) and (d) Delhi Administration has taken up a project for setting up of six units for manufacture of fly-ash bricks.

Opening of Bank Branches in the Rural Areas

293. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) whether Government have directed the commercial banks to keep pending, opening of new branches in urban and metropolitan areas till requirements in rural and semi-urban areas are met;

(b) if so, what are the details of the commercial banks which have followed the directives of Government and opened branches in the rural areas; and

(c) what are the details of locations in rural areas where commercial banks have